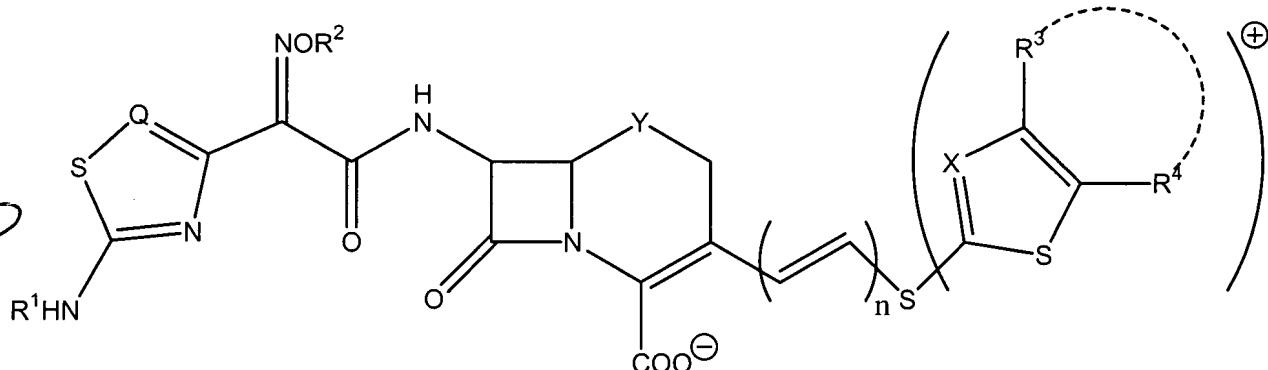


1. (TWICE AMENDED) A compound of the formula:



wherein R^1 is a phosphono group;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{3-5} cycloalkyl

group;

$\text{C} \mid$ each of Q and X is a nitrogen atom or CH ;

Y is S ;

n is 0 or 1;

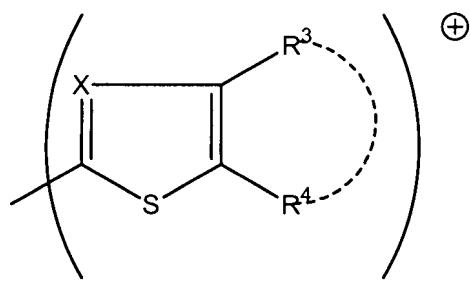
one of R^3 and R^4 is a pyridinium group which may be substituted and the other is a

hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group which may be substituted, or R^3 and R^4

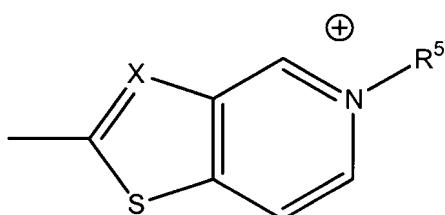
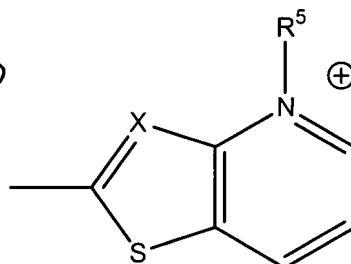
taken together may form a quaternized nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring

which may be substituted,

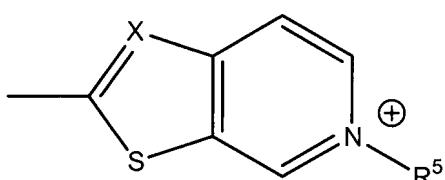
wherein when R^3 and R^4 are taken together, the group of the formula



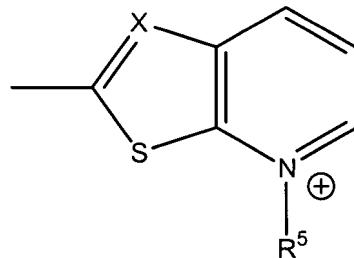
is



C1



or



wherein R⁵ is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

or salt thereof.

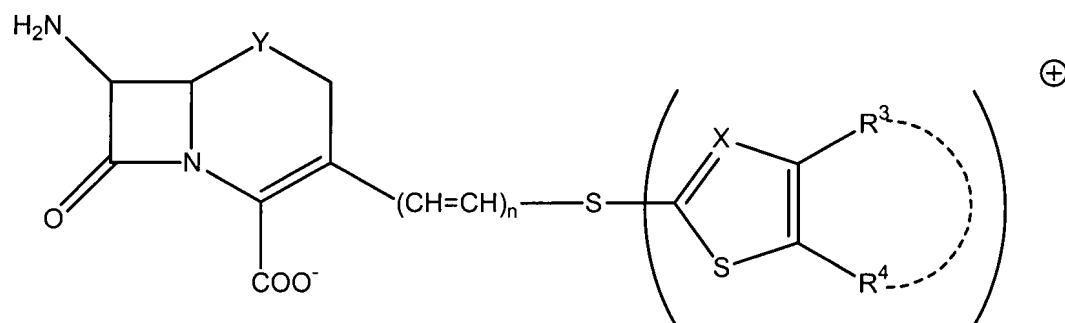
C2
4
12

(THRICE AMENDED) 7β-[2(Z)-ethoxyimino-2-(5-phosphonoamino-1,2,4-thiadiazole-3-yl)acetamido]-3-[4-(1-methyl-4-pyridinio)-2-thiazolylthio]-3-cephem-4-carboxylate or its salt.

C3

13. (TWICE AMENDED) A compound as claimed in claim 1, which is 7 β - [2(Z)-fluoromethoxyimino-2-(5-phosphonoamino-1,2,4-thiadiazole-3-yl)acetamido]-3-[4-(1-methyl-4-pyridinio)-2-thiazolylthio]-3-cephem-4-carboxylate or its salt.

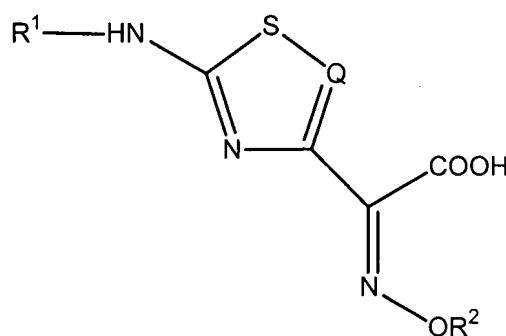
14. (AMENDED) A method for producing a compound as claimed in claim 1, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula:



C4 or its salt;

wherein each symbol has the meaning given in claim 1;

with a compound of the formula:



its salt or its reactive derivative;

wherein each symbol has the meaning given in claim 1.